

Earth Team Volunteer Program



Earth Team Volunteers join professional conservationists as they work directly with local farmers, ranchers, and Tribes in putting conservation practices on the land.



Earth Team Volunteers play an important role in keeping NRCS' long-standing commitment to working with people to protect and conserve natural resources.



photos: NRCS Oklahoma

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Have you ever wondered how you could help with conservation efforts for a better environment? Then this is the place to get involved.

We need your help in reducing soil erosion, conserving our water and improving its quality, and developing pride in our country's natural resource heritage. Your commitment to the Earth Team will help ensure that generations to come will enjoy America's bounty.

Earth Team, the volunteer arm of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, is now recruiting volunteers all over Oklahoma. Make a difference in your community – become an Earth Team Volunteer.

Requirements To Become An Earth Team Volunteer

- ☑ Anyone 14 years of age or older who is interested in conserving our precious natural resources can join the Earth Team
- ☑ You can work-full time or part-time, indoors or outdoors
- ☑ You can volunteer as an individual or as a group
- ☑ All talents needed!

Benefits of Becoming an Earth Team Volunteer

- ☑ You can work with professionals and make a positive difference in your community
- ☑ Utilize your talents and interests
- ☑ Schools and community groups benefit from the conservation tours and exhibits that volunteers organize
- ☑ Assist in support services, such as computer data entry, typing, filing, computer programming, and conservation information
- ☑ Take photographs, write articles, speak to community groups, produce artwork and publications
- ☑ Students can earn community service hours to count towards college admission
- ☑ Assist in conservation education programs, outdoor classroom development, and presentations to students
- ☑ Pick up valuable skills that can be listed on your resume
- ☑ Gain professional work experience or academic credit
- ☑ Help your environment while you have Fun!

2002 Brought Oklahoma National Recognition

Earth Team Group Award

Oklahoma received two national Earth Team awards this year. The Wilburton High School Natural Resources Awareness Class received the National Earth Team Group Award. The class spent many hours monitoring and collecting aquatic insects on the Fourche Maline Creek. Projects they participated in included an Earth Day Fair booth, a Natural Resource Awareness Day, the Fall Festival, and the Latimer County county fair. They informed and educated county residents about the Fourche Mailine Watershed they live in, and how to protect it for future generations.

Regional RC&D/NRCS Earth Team Award

Great Plains RC&D won the regional RC&D award for 2002, and is now in competition for the national RC&D award to be announced in July. Volunteers from the North Fork of the Red River Correctional Facility planted over 2,000 trees in the Washita and Beckham county areas. The project gave inmates an opportunity to connect with the environment, and further the agency's

mission. The Council has worked with AmeriCorps groups for the past two years. The group removed debris caused by the ice storm on various watershed sites.

State and National Goals Exceeded

During 2002, more than 38,000 Earth Team volunteers donated more than 1 million hours of service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Last year saw an increase of five percent in the number of NRCS offices using volunteers, which brings the total to 77 percent. A 100 percent office participation is still a national goal.

Oklahoma exceeded its goal of 48,000 hours of volunteer work. One thousand, three hundred and thirty-three volunteers clocked 49,733 hours! Oklahoma had 100 percent office participation this year. The Earth Team Volunteer program in Oklahoma is very strong and growing each year.

How Do I Get Involved?

Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office or USDA Service Center, check out our website at www.ok.usda.gov and click on Earth Team, or call our toll free number at 1-800-LANDCARE.

There is always a need for YOU!



These AmeriCorps members provided assistance through the Earth Team Volunteer Program, to clean up debris from an ice storm that hit the state. They stacked brush and limbs to create a wildlife habitat at an outdoor classroom site. They also removed ice storm debris from nearby watershed sites.

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